

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 7004

By Mumpower

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Frank W. De Friece, Jr.,
of Bristol.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Frank W. De Friece, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, Mr. De Friece was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, a descendant of one of the region's most prominent pioneer families, Frank De Friece was born January 29, 1921, in Bristol, the son of Pauline Massengill and Frank William De Friece; and

WHEREAS, educated in Bristol schools and a 1939 graduate of Tennessee High School, Mr. De Friece served his country in World War II with valor in the Pacific as an Aerial Photo Interpreter; later, he headed a Ground Combat Photo Team and participated in three Initial Assault Landings; and

WHEREAS, after the war, Mr. De Friece earned a chemistry degree at Roanoke College in Salem, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, Mr. De Friece served from 1960 to 1971 as president of the S.E. Massengill Company, a world-famous pharmaceutical firm founded in 1897 by his grandfather, Dr. Samuel E. Massengill; he remained vice chairman of the North American division of the company after it was sold to Beecham Group until his retirement; and

WHEREAS, actively involved in the community, Mr. De Friece served as a member of the National Advisory Council of Maryville College; president of the Bristol Rotary Club, where he was credited as the father of their coveted Rotary Teacher Awards Program; and a board member of the Salvation Army, Roanoke College, and the YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly; and

WHEREAS, always greatly respected by his colleagues, Mr. De Friece served as the director of the boards of numerous organizations, including the Massengill-De Friece Foundation, the American Red Cross, Community Chest/United Way, Janie Hamit Home, Dominion National Bank, First Tennessee Bank, Bristol Memorial Hospital, King College, Bristol Family YMCA, the Barter Foundation, American Humanics of Kansas City, the Presbyterian Board of World Missions, Union Theological Seminary, Southern Region YMCA, the YMCA of the USA, King Pharmaceuticals, PBS station WSJK/WKOP-TV, and Ivy MacKenzie Mutual Funds; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to accolades, Mr. De Friece was the deserving recipient of many special honors, including Boss of the Year for the Tri-Cities Division of the National Secretaries Association, Man of the Year for the Bristol TN-VA Family YMCA, the King College Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award from the Bristol Rotary Club, designation as a Paul Harris Fellow, the 4-Way Test Award from the Bristol TN-VA Morning Rotary Club, induction into the Wellmont Hospital Foundation's Citizens of Fame, appointment to the Bristol Public Library Task Force and co-trustee of the Bristol Public Library Foundation, recognition as the founder of the Society of the Preservation of Outhouses, designation as a Laureate of the Business Hall of Fame, Tri-Cities Junior Achievement recognition, and Honoree of Barter Theatre's Walk of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Mr. De Friece was an active and devout member of the First Presbyterian Church, which he served faithfully for many years as a deacon and an elder; and

WHEREAS, he was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Frank De Friece was most fortunate to share the love, support, and companionship of his beloved wife, Nancy B. De Friece; and

WHEREAS, deeply devoted to his family, Mr. De Friece is also survived by his children and their spouses, Mark and Mary Nell De Friece, Paul and Val De Friece, and Polly and Dennis Wills; his stepson, Chester P. Sikorski III, and his wife, Katy; his grandchildren, Kate Emily and Samuel Clay De Friece, Drew Fleming and Welsey Frank Wills, and Ford Edward and Julia Jane Sikorski; and his sister, Josephine D. Wilson; and

WHEREAS, Mr. De Friece was preceded in death by his wife, Marjorie Freels De Friece, with whom he enjoyed forty-two years of fulfilling family life; a sister, Marthina De Friece; and a grandson, Evan Ricely Wills; and

WHEREAS, Frank De Friece leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Frank W. De Friece, Jr., reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. De Friece.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.